

JUDICIAL CANDIDATES FORUM

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

PRESENTED BY THE NORTH TAMPA BAR ASSOCIATION

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Group 7

RICK SILVERMAN

voteforrickey.com



What is the source of your value system?

Coming from a blue collar family, I learned from an early age the value of loyalty, respect, and hard work. This was reinforced when I was thirteen. My father left us and we found ourselves on public assistance (welfare and food stamps). It was my mother, who entered a job training program to develop a vocation so she could support the family.

Why do you want to be a judge?

I have been training for this position for all of my life. Since the vast majority of my practice is in County Court, I have witnessed the system on a day to day basis for over thirty years. During this time, I have developed ideas where I can best improve the system, and be of a service to the community.

What have you done over the years to prepare yourself specifically for judicial service?

During the past thirty two years, I have tried countless cases of various types in County Court. For several years, I have also had the privilege of serving on a committee of the Florida Bar which creates and revises rules of court procedure that are submitted to the Supreme Court for approval.

What distinguishes you from the other candidates?

The sheer amount of my experience in County Court. Although I have spent time in Circuit and Federal Court during my career, my career has been unmistakably intertwined with County Court. I understand the role of a county court judge, and I'm prepared to take that role on.

How do you describe your temperament and personality?

Generally, I feel that it is important to be respectful of other people. I often have taken extra time to make sure that my client and I understand one another. Although court is a serious place, I feel that there is always time to be pleasant and lighthearted at the appropriate times. A good sense of humor doesn't hurt either.

What would make you a competent judge?

From my experience I understand the importance of a judge being punctual and to have a good demeanor, while still being able to manage and move a case load. I also understand that a good judge should be open to listen to argument and follow the law. Above all, I've learned that a judge needs to be consistent and fair.

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FORUM MODERATED BY ADRIA DICKEY & JARED KRUKAR

